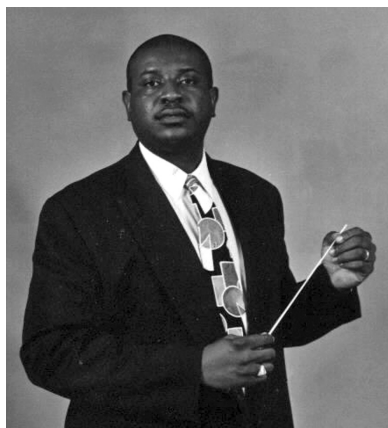


BAND DEPARTMENT



Mr. Cleve A. Maloon **Director of Bands**

Mr. Cleve A. Maloon, a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), joined Bak Middle School of the Arts in the fall of 2001. Mr. Maloon started his teaching career at Washington Jr. High School and Rock Island High School, Rock Island Illinois, and served as director

of bands and the district's music coordinator K-12. Maloon also served on the music faculty at Black Hawk Community College and Teikyo Marycrest University as an adjunct instructor. He was director of bands at Palm Beach Gardens High School and Polo Park Middle School before joining the Bak MSA teaching staff. Mr. Maloon earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Augustana College, Illinois and his Masters of Music in Performance & Pedagogy from the University of Iowa. Maloon, a native of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, has performed professionally throughout the Caribbean and United States in calypso, salsa, reggae, jazz bands and symphony orchestras. He studied trombone performance technique with Dr. John D. Hill, University of Iowa, Dr. Marcellus B. Brown, Boise State University, Phillip D. Frankie, "The President's Own" Marine Band, Dr. Lawrence McClellan, Berklee College of Music and Dr. Leroy Trotman University of the Virgin Islands.

In January 2007, the Florida Bandmasters Association awarded Mr. Maloon for five consecutive years of Straight Superiors at Bak Middle School of the Arts. On July 11, 2005, Congressman E. Clay Shaw, Jr. nominated Mr. Maloon for the American Stars of Teaching Award, which recognizes exemplary class-

room teachers who are successful in using innovative teaching strategies and raising academic achievement from all their students. Mr. Maloon was also 2005 Finalist for the Palm Beach County Economic Council William Dwyer Awards for Excellence in Education. Mr. Maloon was nominated for the 2004 and 2005 Disney Teacher Awards, which honors creativity in teaching. In 1999, the Palm Beach Gardens Rotary International honored Mr. Maloon as one of the Teachers of the Year and the Palm Beach Post selected him as a recipient of the "I Make A Difference Teacher of Excellence" Award. Western Illinois University awarded him Most Inspirational Teacher and the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy selected him for the Teacher Award of Excellence.

Under Mr. Maloon's leadership, both Advanced Band and Jazz Band at Bak Middle School of the Arts have received straight superior ratings for nine consecutive years at the Florida Band Masters Association's Music Performance Assessments and at numerous festivals and competitions throughout the country. Mr. Maloon has been a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Missouri and Florida. He maintains an active membership with Florida Band Masters Association and served as the District Chairman for Palm Beach County Schools from 2001-03 and District Secretary from 1999-2001. He also maintains memberships with Music Educators National Conference, International Trombone Association, International Association of Jazz Educators and the National Band Association. Mr. Maloon has been married to his lovely wife Kim for 19 years and they are proud parents of their daughters Natalie Alexis and Amy Nicole.





Mrs. Karen Fuller Dixon

Karen Fuller Dixon has been Principal Flute of the Palm Beach Opera Orchestra and the Palm Beach Symphony since 1989. She was a featured soloist with the Palm Beach Symphony in 2006. She is also a founding member and board member of the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival, which has been presenting summer chamber music concerts since 1992 and has released five compact discs on the Klavier record label.

Ms. Dixon was a regular member of the Naples Philharmonic from 1989-1999 and was Adjunct Professor of Flute at Palm Beach Atlantic College from 1993-1999. She has performed extensively with many Florida orchestras, including the former Florida Philharmonic, Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, Florida West Coast Symphony, Ballet Florida, Miami City Ballet, Florida Grand Opera, Gold Coast Opera, New Philharmonia, Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia, and the Festival Orchestra of the Concert Association of Florida. In 2004, Ms. Dixon toured the US with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra and Russian baritone, Dmitry Hvorostovsky. As a chamber musician, she frequently appears throughout South Florida with Chamber Music Palm Beach and the Pro Arte Chamber Players. She has also played regularly in the pit for the Broadway Series at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale, as well as the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach and the Jackie Gleason Theater of the Performing Arts in Miami Beach. In addition, Ms. Dixon is active in the Latin recording scene in Miami, appearing on albums with Gloria Estefan, Arturo Sandoval and Nestor Torres.

Ms. Dixon moved to Florida in 1988 for the premiere season of the New World Symphony. During her two-year tenure with NWS, she appeared as soloist with the orchestra and toured to South America and Europe. During these tours, the orchestra performed at the

renowned Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires and played the grand opening concert of the Bastille Opera House in Paris. As a member of NWS, Ms. Dixon also participated in residencies in Orange County, CA and Big Sky, Montana and appeared with the orchestra at Wolftrap. Ms. Dixon performed frequently as a member of the New World Wind Quintet.

A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music (BM, MM), Ms. Dixon has also studied at the Eastman School of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music. She was a doctoral student at Indiana University School of Music where she was also Associate Instructor of Flute. She has participated in many summer music festivals including the Aspen Music Festival, the Bach Aria Festival, the Sarasota Music Festival and the Bedford Springs Music Festival in Pennsylvania. Ms. Dixon is a past winner of the New York Flute Club Competition.

Ms. Dixon lives in Fort Lauderdale with her husband and two children.

Mr. Michael Forte

Michael Forte is principal clarinet of the Palm Beach Opera Orchestra and the Southwest Florida Symphony (Ft. Myers). He is a former member of the Maracaibo Symphony in Venezuela. He has appeared as soloist with both the Maracaibo Symphony and the Southwest Florida Symphony and in 2006 performed the clarinet concertos of Mozart and Weber with the Palm Beach Symphony and the Palm Beach Atlantic University Orchestra.

While in Venezuela, in addition to playing in the symphony, he was saxophonist and arranger for his own jazz quartet performing in Maracaibo and touring to other cities in Venezuela. In the U.S. he has performed with Trini Lopez, Dinah Shore, Bob Crosby, Sammy Davis Jr., and Ray Charles among others. Mr. Forte also performed as a free-lance musician in New York City.

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BAND DEPARTMENT • ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE



In 1992, Mr. Forte, along with two other members of the Palm Beach Opera Orchestra, formed the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival, a four-week series of chamber music concerts during the summer. In 2006, the Festival completed its 15th season of concerts. A number of their live performances have been aired on National Public Radio's Performance Today program. Mr. Forte appears, with members of the Chamber Music Festival, on four CD recordings on the Klavier label as Chamber Music Palm Beach. They recorded their 6th CD in August 2007 that was released in July of 2010.

Mr. Forte teaches at Palm Beach Atlantic University and is Artist-in-Residence at the Dreyfoos School of the Arts as well as BAK Middle School of the Arts. Mr. Forte holds a Bachelor of Music, clarinet in performance from Syracuse University.

Mr. Ron Hughes

Ron Hughes received his B.S. and M.S. in Music Education degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is currently completing his doctoral dissertation, which will earn him a D.M.A. in Music Education from Boston University. His performing experience includes concert bands, orchestras, jazz bands, steel drum bands, percussion ensembles, marching bands (as a percussionist and drum major), and drum corps, including membership in the seven-time world-champion Cavaliers.

Currently he teaches percussion at Dreyfoos School of the Arts and Bak Middle School of the Arts, and at the Treasure Coast Percussion Academy in Vero Beach, which he founded. He previously taught percussion at Barry University, Indian River State College, Vero Beach High School and Olympic Heights High School. Additionally, he has served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant with the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Band Department, a Research Assistant for the National Arts Edu-

cation Research Center located at the University of Illinois, and as the Director of Bands at Olympic Heights High School.

Percussion ensembles under his direction have been selected to perform at the National Percussion Festival in Indianapolis, at the Florida Music Educators Convention in Tampa (four times), at the Florida Day of Percussion (five times), and at the University of South Florida Marimba Festival in Tampa (three times). His high school drum-lines have won many first-place percussion awards, and the Olympic Heights High School Band was crowned the Florida State Class "A" Champions while Mr. Hughes served as the Director of Bands.

Mr. Hughes's private percussion students have been awarded numerous college music scholarships and have won many concerto competitions. A few have also been selected as Graduate Teaching Assistants at such prestigious percussion programs as Northwestern University, North Texas State University, and the University of Arizona.

Mr. Jeffrey Kaye

Mr. Kaye has had a versatile music career in South Florida since moving to Boca Raton in 1989. He held the position of Principal Trumpet of the Florida Philharmonic for 14 seasons from 1989 to 2003. He was also Principal Trumpet of the Florida Grand Opera, the Florida Philharmonic Pops Orchestra and the Miami Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Kaye has performed regularly with the Milwaukee Symphony for and has also performed with the Honolulu Symphony, the New Orleans Symphony as well as the Palm Beach Opera, the Palm Beach Symphony. In addition to playing Principal Trumpet with the Boca Symphonia, he also served as the orchestra's Personnel Manager and in 2005 he was appointed to the position of Orchestra Manager.

Since 1999 he has played with the IRIS Chamber Orchestra in Germantown, TN and

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is a core member of that prestigious orchestra. Mr. Kaye was a guest soloist last season, performing the Shostakovich Piano / Trumpet Concerto as well as soloist with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. He was also guest soloist at the Casals Festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico performing Mahler's 3rd Symphony.

Mr. Kaye served as Professional in Residence in Trumpet and Jazz studies at Louisiana State University last year and taught Jazz Studies as well as Applied Trumpet. He also performed with the Norem Brass Quintet. Prior to his appointment at LSU, Mr. Kaye spent two years as Artist in Residence at UNLV in Las Vegas, NV. During his tenure with the Florida Philharmonic Mr. Kaye served as Trumpet Professor at the New World School of the Arts in Miami where he received the "Teacher of the Year Award." He also was the coach for the New World Brass Ensemble. His passion for teaching has led him to perform in many "Side by Side" concerts with students of all ages as well as performing as soloist with the Miami Youth Orchestra. Mr. Kaye has conducted and performed in special children's programs at Temple Beth Am in Miami and now coaches a select few of South Florida's top trumpet students.

Summer performances have included the Aspen Music Festival, Waterloo Music Festival, Norfolk Music Festival/Yale Summer School of Music, and Tanglewood Music Festival where he was a fellow and played under Leonard Bernstein. Mr. Kaye plays Principal Trumpet with the Santa Fe Opera and this past summer performed on La Traviata, Elixir of Love, Aleceste, Don Giovanni and the world premiere of the Letter. Jeff has also performed as soloist and taught at the Tainan Music Festival in Tainan, Taiwan and toured Europe with the North Carolina School of the Arts Chamber Orchestra as trumpet soloist.

He earned both a Bachelors of Arts in performance and a Bachelors of Science in Music Management at the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford, and was awarded a talent scholarship by the Manhattan School of Music in New York where he earned a Masters Degree in Music Performance. He has been heard as soloist with the Florida Philharmonic, Florida Philharmonic Pops Orchestra and the Miami Chamber Orchestra.

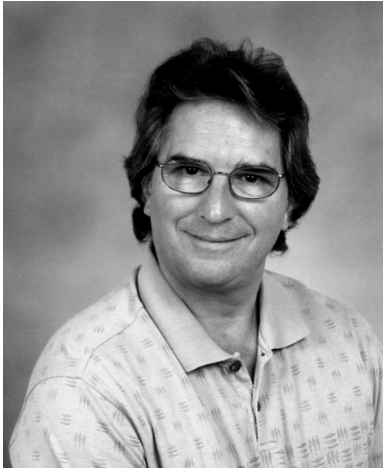
Mr. Kaye's music can be heard on several recordings, such as the Florida Philharmonic CD recording of Gustav Mahler's First Symphony as well as performing with The Empire Brass, The Florida Philharmonic, Placido Domingo, and the Broadway show "Scarlett Pimpenell".

Mrs. Catherine Mitil Music Theory / Vocal Coach

Soprano Catherine Mitil received her Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from Palm Beach Atlantic University. Her singing experience began at Palm Beach County Middle School of the Arts and continued at Dreyfoos High School of the Arts. She has studied private voice for more than ten years with instruction from many internationally recognized teachers. While in college Mrs. Mitil presented four solo recitals and performed in several operas with favored roles such as Lauretta from "Gianni Schicchi" and Adele from "Die Fledermaus". She is the recipient of many awards and scholarships including First Prize winner of the Federation Music Club of the Palm Beaches Vocal Competition, and Third Place winner of the Sarasota Arts State Vocal Competition. Mrs. Mitil was also awarded Most Outstanding Graduate from the School of Music and Fine Arts at Palm Beach Atlantic University. She is in her ninth year of teaching private voice lessons in Palm Beach County.



KEYBOARD/PIANO DEPARTMENT



Mr. Emerico Bencivenga

Mr. Bencivenga studied with Harry Franklin, head of the piano department at Carnegie-Mellon University and soloist with the Pittsburgh Symphony in the sixties. Mr. Franklin prepared him for his work at Duquesne University where he majored in piano and minored in voice. He graduated from Duquesne in 1991 with a B.S. in Music Education from one of the finest music programs in the country. Although he was classically trained, Mr. Bencivenga also entertained as both a bandleader and member of various groups that performed in the tri-state area. Throughout the years, he has composed, recorded and produced popular music. He has worked as a church organist, sang in a jazz ensemble with the late singer-actress Rosemary Clooney and performed in a warm-up band for the Bob Seeger System tour. Above all, he loves teaching and has been working for the Palm Beach County school system as a music teacher for 18 years.

Mrs. Sara Quincoses

Sara Quincoses started to study piano when she was 8 years old. She received a scholarship to the National Conservatory of Music of Havana when she was 12 years old. She performed her first piano concert at the auditorium of Havana.

She studied under the direction of Maria Emma Botet, famous composer and pianist in Cuba and graduated from the Conservatory of Music in Havana as a professor of piano in 1956, Solfa, and Music Theory in 1957. She also graduated as a professor of music in Cervantes Conservatory of Havana in 1978. She also graduated as a professor and instructor of music and chorus in Havana in 1984.

As a pianist, she performed concerts at the University, Auditorium, the Lyceum, La Salle College and other concert halls in Havana.

Ms. Sara worked as a pianist with the Havana Orchestra in the capital and other cities throughout the island. She was also an adjudicator for several contests for musical groups, chorus, vocal soloists, traditional groups and musical instruments in Cuba for 20 years.

She received awards for director of children, youth and adults and as a professor of chorus in Havana, Cuba. She was invited by the minister of culture of Czechoslovakia as an observer for orchestral and choral festivals throughout Austria, Hungary, Poland, Armenia and other European countries. Her choir performed for Pope John Paul II during his visit to Cuba.

In the United States, she worked as a pianist and organist at St. Ignatius Loyola Cathedral, St. Luke's Church and presently at St. Juliana's Church. She is also assisting as an artist in residence for the piano department since 2001 at Bak Middle School of the Arts.



STRING DEPARTMENT



Mrs. Nancy Beebe Director

Nancy Beebe, a National Board Certified Teacher, has twenty three years of teaching experience. This is her 13th year as the String Director at the Bak Middle School of the Arts in Palm Beach County where she conducts three levels of string orchestras, teaches theory and an eighth grade chamber ensemble class. A native of Berea, Ohio, Mrs. Beebe received her Bachelor of Music from Bowling Green State University where she studied cello under Dr. Alan Smith. Prior to teaching at the Bak Middle School of the Arts, she taught elementary music for nine years at Wellington Elementary and one year at Manatee Elementary to over 500 students a week. In addition, she initiated and directed successful after school string programs at both of these schools. Before coming to Florida, Mrs. Beebe was the Music Director at a Private Academy in Parma Heights, Ohio as well as a Conductor for a Youth Orchestra.

Mrs. Beebe is a cellist. She has performed at various local venues including Mara Lago, the Breakers and the Kravis Center. She has performed in Master Classes for Nathaniel Rosen and Gordon Epperson. Mrs. Beebe is an active board member, music committee member and adjudicator for the Florida Orchestra Association. Mrs. Beebe is the Past President of the American String Teacher's

Association. Under her leadership, a Spanish piece "Cincopations," was commissioned for the 2010 7&8 All-State String Orchestra by composer Richard Meyer. For the last seven years, she has been actively involved with South Florida's Cellobration. Five years ago, Mrs. Beebe hosted a Cellobration and Master Class for cellists of all ages at Bak Middle School of the Arts. In addition, she has hosted and organized the annual Palm Beach County String Festival for nine years.

Mrs. Beebe has been nominated twice for the Palm Beach County Economic Council William T. Dwyer Awards for Excellence in Education. Four years ago she was a finalist. In November 2005, Mrs. Beebe was the recipient of the Music Teacher of the Year Award by the Palm Beach County Youth Orchestra. Mrs. Beebe was selected as a candidate for the 2007, 26th Edition of Who's Who of American Women.

Under Mrs. Beebe's tutelage, the Advanced String Orchestra at Bak Middle School of the Arts has received straight superior ratings for 12 consecutive years at the Florida Orchestra Association's Music Performance Assessments. This group has also received superior ratings, high acclaim from adjudicators, and first place awards at National and International high school festivals and competitions. Under Mrs. Beebe's directorship, the musicians in this group have had the honor of performing at Symphony Hall in Boston, The Royal Academy of Music in London, and Orchestra Hall in Chicago through the Heritage Festival.



VOCAL DEPARTMENT



Ms. Connie Drosakis **Choral Director**

Connie Drosakis is a twenty-four year teaching veteran (currently in her eleventh year at Bak MSOA) and a product of Palm Beach County Schools. Prior to teaching at the Bak Middle School of the Arts, Connie taught at Christa McAuliffe Middle School for fourteen years. She received the Bachelor and Master of Music Education/Choral Conducting degrees from Florida State University. At FSU, Connie was the recipient of the Irvin Cooper Memorial Scholarship in Choral Music Education. Her choruses have been selected to perform with the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of James Judd, and in festival choruses under the direction of Doreen Rao and Henry Leck. Under her directorship, all four Choral Groups have received straight superior ratings for eight consecutive years at the Florida Vocal Association's Music Performance Assessments. In addition, her choruses have received high praise and several awards at middle and high

school festivals and competitions both nationally and internationally. Choruses under her direction have also performed at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City at Southern Division and National Conventions of the American Choral Directors Association. Most recently Chorale performed at the 2007 National ACDA Convention in Miami. This year the 7th and 8th Grade Girls Chorus will be performing at the National ACDA Convention in Chicago. Ms. Drosakis is an active adjudicator and clinician for district evaluation festivals and county honor choirs throughout the states of Florida and Alabama. She has conducted All-State Choirs in North Carolina and Alabama. In July of 2011, Ms. Drosakis will conduct the Missouri ACDA Middle School honor Choir. She has served as the State Middle School Chair for the Florida Vocal Association and Membership Chair for the Florida State Chapter of ACDA. Ms. Drosakis holds membership in several professional organizations, including Florida Music Educator's Association, Music Educator's National Conference and American Choral Director's Association. She currently serves as President-elect of Florida ACDA.



Mr. Ken Taylor **Choral Director**

Ken Taylor is in his 23rd year of teaching music in the Palm Beach County School system. He received the Bachelor of Science degree in with a double major in music education and music theory from Palm Beach Atlantic University. His choirs have consistently received superior ratings at district and state festivals throughout the state of Florida. Mr. Taylor is often called upon as an adjudicator for choral and solo per-

formance assessments in the state. He has served as conductor for several honor choirs throughout the state of Florida and recently conducted the North Carolina Middle School All State Mixed Chorus. He has conducted choirs at the State and National conferences of the American Choral Director's Association. Mr. Taylor has twice served the Florida Vocal Association as District Chairman and has also served as the SSAA All State Coordinator. Mr. Taylor holds memberships in Florida Music Educator's Association, American Choral Director's Association, and Music Educator's National Conference.

VOCAL DEPARTMENT • ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE



Mr. Michael Yannette Accompanist

Michael Yannette brings a rich and varied performance background to all of his artistic endeavors. A professional pianist, accompanist and music educator, Mr. Yannette is a magna cum laude graduate of Florida State University. While at FSU he received nearly every available performance award including

the Ernst von Dohnanyi Prize, the FSU Concerto Competition, the Florida Collegiate Artist Competition and was named the 1986 FSU Presser Scholar. Mr. Yannette has also directed and performed in professional, collegiate and community theater nationally. He wrote, produced and starred in the title role of "An Evening with George Gershwin," a one-man show about the life of the great composer. As a choral accompanist, Mr Yannette has been an annual accompanist for the Florida All-State Choirs and American Choral Directors Association All-State Choirs and has performed with ACDA National and Southern Division Choirs. Most recently he performed with choirs at both Carnegie Hall and Avery Fischer Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. Mr. Yannette has recently finished his second musical play entitled "Mysterium" about the life of composer/pianist Alexander Scriabin and plans to perform it in the inaugural year of the soon to be built Conrad Hilton Theater in West Palm Beach.

Ms. Eleonor Ayala

Soprano Eleonor Ayala is a native of West Palm Beach. She attended Palm Beach County Middle School of the Arts and Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts. After highschool, Ms. Ayala went on to receive her Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from

Palm Beach Atlantic University. While attending PBAU, she presented four solo recitals. In addition, Ms. Ayala has performed featured solos from Vivaldi's "Magnificat" and Handel's "Chandos Anthem." Ms. Ayala has also performed roles as Hansel from "Hansel & Gretel" and Cherubino from "Marriage of Figaro." She has studied voice privately for more than ten years and is in her fifth year of teaching young singers privately in Palm Beach County. In the upcoming year, Ms. Ayala plans to begin her graduate studies.

Ms. Tammy Locke-Ross

Tammy Locke Ross has enjoyed teaching vocal students at the Middle School of the Arts for the past decade. Ms. Ross received her BA in Voice Performance at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and studied under Louise Toth and Daune Mahy. She has been seen locally in such groups as Bel Canto Singers, The Vocal Gentry, lead vocalist with The Voices of the Boca Pops to name a few. Ms. Ross was a featured soloist with the Masterworks Chorus in The French Connection, a concert of French Art Song and the Faure Requiem. She sang many leading roles with the Burt Reynolds's Dinner Theatre, Gilbert & Sullivan Companies as well chorus roles for both Pittsburgh and Palm Beach Opera. She performed as a back up singer with Sarah Brightman during her 2000 world tour. Ms. Ross is currently a soloist at local churches including Lost Tree Chapel where she has been singing for the past 18 years. Ms. Ross maintains a private vocal studio in Palm Beach Gardens and has assisted in teaching voice at Jupiter High School and The Weiss School as well. Most importantly, she enjoys sharing her time, energy and gifts with the aspiring young talents she loves teaching at the Bak Middle School of the Arts.

